## STATE of WISCONSIN



OFFICE of the GOVERNOR

WHEREAS; this year commemorates the 72<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary of the Women's Armed Services Integration Act, which was signed into law by President Harry S. Truman on June 12, 1948, and enabled women to serve in all branches of the military as permanent, regular members; and

WHEREAS; since 1948, women have served in every branch and component of the Armed Forces to protect and defend our country's values and ideals; and

WHEREAS; Wisconsin is home to approximately 30,000 women veterans who deserve to be honored for their bravery, service, and sacrifice; and

WHEREAS; women are the fastest growing demographic of veterans and are trailblazers in a historically male-dominated environment; and

WHEREAS; despite their resilience and strength, women veterans face a unique set of challenges within their battalions and much more remains to be done to ensure women in the Armed Forces are treated equitably and with the respect they deserve; and

WHEREAS; the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs' (WDVA) women veterans program advocates for, empowers, supports, and highlights the achievements of our women veterans through a Woman Veteran of the Year Award, an annual Women Veterans Retreat, monthly women veterans newsletter, trailblazer articles, women wellness events, and the Wisconsin Veterans Museum's women veterans oral history archive and I Am Not Invisible traveling exhibit; and

WHEREAS; today and every day, the state of Wisconsin joins the WDVA and all Wisconsinites in commending the dedication and resilience of our women veterans and the many sacrifices made by them and their families;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin, do hereby proclaim June 12, 2020, as

## WOMEN VETERANS DAY

ughout the State of Wisconsin and I commend this observance to all our state's residents.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Wisconsin to be affixed. Done at the Capitol in the City of Madison this 26<sup>th</sup> day of May 2020.

TONY EVERS GOVERNOR

the Governor:

DOUGLAS LA FOLLETTE

Secretary of State